

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A film-forming apparatus comprising:
 - a plate which is to be exposed to process gas and has an embedded heater that generates heat by resistance heating;
 - a terminal which is exposed at one surface of the plate and supplies power to the heater;
 - a first seal surface provided on the plate, shaped like a ring and surrounding the terminal;
 - a stem shaped like a hollow cylinder, surrounding the terminal and supporting the plate;
 - a second seal surface shaped like a ring and extending along that end of the stem which supports the plate;
 - a cover which closes an open end of the stem, which is opposite to the end which supports the plate;
 - a conductor passing through the cover into the stem and connected to the terminal;
 - a flow path provided in the cover and configured to supply inert gas into the stem;
 - and
 - a seal ring interposed between the first and second seal surfaces, said seal ring comprising an inner circumferential part and an outer circumferential part, said inner and outer circumferential parts being in contact with the first and second seal surfaces so that an unattached zone is defined all around between the inner and outer circumferential parts.

2. (Previously presented) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the seal ring has a higher resistance to heat conduction than the plate and stem.

3. (Original) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a fastening member which fastens the plate and the stem to each other and which penetrates the seal ring.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the seal ring is made of alumina-based ceramic.

7. (Withdrawn) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the seal ring is made of magnesia-based ceramic.

8. (Original) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the fastening member is made of alumina-based ceramic.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising sheaths provided between the plate and the cover and surrounding the terminal and the conductor, and in which the inert gas is supplied into the sheaths from the flow path.

12. (Original) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plate comprises a high-frequency ground electrode which is embedded in a side opposite to the terminal with respect to the heater.

13. (Original) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plate comprises a temperature-detecting portion which detects a temperature of the heater.

14. (Withdrawn) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a high-frequency ground electrode embedded in the plate;

a terminal connected to the electrode and exposed at the same side as the terminal;

a high-frequency cable penetrating the cover and connected to the terminal that is connected to the electrode;

a sheath thermocouple penetrating the cover, inserted in the plate and configured to detect a temperature of the heater; and

sheaths which surround the terminal connected to the electrode, the high-frequency cable and the sheath thermocouple, and into which the inert gas is supplied from the flow path, the terminal, high-frequency cable and sheath thermocouple being exposed between the plate and the cover.

15. (Original) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inert gas is supplied at a pressure equal to or higher than a pressure of the process gas outside the stem.

16. (New) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the seal ring has a cross section formed in an H-shape all around.

17. (New) A film-forming apparatus comprising:
- a plate which is to be exposed to process gas and has an embedded heater that generates heat by resistance heating;
 - a terminal which is exposed at one surface of the plate and supplies power to the heater;
 - a first seal surface provided on the plate surrounding the terminal;
 - a hollow cylinder stem surrounding the terminal, the hollow cylinder stem having a first end and a second end opposite the first end, the first end supporting the plate;
 - a second seal surface extending along the first end;
 - a cover which closes the second end;
 - a conductor passing through the cover into the hollow cylinder stem and connected to the terminal;
 - a flow path provided in the cover and configured to supply inert gas into the hollow cylinder stem; and
 - a seal ring interposed between the first and second seal surfaces.
18. (New) The film-forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the seal ring has a higher resistance to heat conduction than the plate and stem.